

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NEA-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

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R 171330Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8556

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 925

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN CY

SUBJECT: UNFICYP REDUCTION

REF: STATE 098276, STOCKHOLM 2111, NICOSIA 890 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: UNFICYP ARGUES THAT CHANGE IN MANDATE REQUIRED FOR FURTHER REDUCTION. IN FACT, RELEVANT UNSC RESOLUTION IS VERY FLEXIBLE. INFO ON UK AND SWEDISH VIEWS ON UNFICYP REDUCTION IN PARAS 6 AND 7.

1. "NO FURTHER REDUCTION IN UNFICYP WITHOUT A CHANGE IN THE MANDATE" IS APPARENTLY BECOMING THE RALLYING CRY OF THOSE RESISTING REDUCTION, JUST AS THE ARGUMENT "WE CANNOT SPARE ANOTHER MAN" WAS USED A YEAR AGO.

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2. SINCE WE DISCOVER THAT MOST INTERESTED GOVTS (AND EVEN

OSORIO HIMSELF) HAVE FORGOTTEN EXACTLY WHAT THE MANDATE SAID, WE THINK WE SHOULD ALERT ALL INTERESTED POSTS. (CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER AND SWEDISH AMBASSADOR WERE BOTH INTERESTED ENOUGH IN THE ACTUAL TEXT TO REQUEST COPIES.)

3. UNFICYP BRIEFERS REGULARLY DESCRIBE "UNFICYP'S THREE MISSIONS" IN TERMS WHICH SUGGEST THAT UNFICYP HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PREVENTION OF FIGHTING, MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER, AND RETURN TO NORMAL CONDITIONS. IN FACT, OPERATIVE RESOLUTION (RES 186, MARCH 4, 1964) EXPLICITLY STATES GOVT OF CYPRUS "HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION OF LAW AND ORDER," ASSIGNS UNFICYP TASK BEGIN UNDERLINE "TO USE ITS BEST EFFORTS END UNDERLINE TO PREVENT A RECURRENCE OF FIGHTING AND, AS NECESSARY, TO BEGIN UNDERLINE CONTRIBUTE END UNDERLINE TO MAINTENANCE AND RESTORATION OF LAW AND ORDER AND RETURN TO NORMAL CONDITIONS." UNSYG CAN DEFINE UNFICYP "BEST EFFORTS" AND "CONTRIBUTION" IN ANY TERMS HE WISHES IN LIGHT OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND THREAT PREVAILING.

4. A SECONDARY ARGUMENT IS MADE THAT UNFICYP NEEDS PRESENT FORCES TO STOP VIOLENCE. ONLY REAL TEST OF UNFICYP WILLINGNESS TO USE SUCH FORCE WAS ON KOPHINOU IN 1967, WHEN UNFICYP INTERPOSED IN TENSE SITUATION. NATIONAL GUARD SIMPLY DISARMED UNFICYP UNIT (ALTHOUGH UNFICYP THEN TOTALED 6,000 ON ISLAND) AND BEGAN 1967 FIGHTING.

5. UNFICYP OFFICERS SOMETIMES POINT OUT THAT RES 186 DESCRIBES UNFICYP AS "FORCE", CLAIM THAT FURTHER REDUCTION WOULD MAKE IT NO LONGER A "FORCE." WE WONDER IF SEMANTIC POINT JUSTIFIES FULLSCALE MANDATE REVISION.

6. GOCYPRUS MIGHT WELL OPPOSE ANY MANDATE REVISION, SINCE IT FEARS THAT REVISION WOULD WEAKEN ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY TO IT (DESCRIBED ABOVE) OR GIVE ATHENS, ANKARA OR TURK CYPRIOT LEADERSHIP MORE FORMAL ROLE IN PEACEKEEPING ON ISLAND. UNFICYP IS PRESENTLY HERE AT INVITATION GOCYPRUS, AND LATTER VERY JEALOUS ABOUT ITS SOVEREIGN PREROGATIVES THIS RESPECT.

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7. FOR STOCKHOLM: SWEDISH AMB. AKE JONSSON PRIVATELY CONGRATULATED USG ON RAISING UNFICYP REDUCTION QUESTION, TOLD CHARGE THAT HE BELIEVES TIME HAS COME FOR EXAMINATION OF QUALITATIVE SHIFT TO OBSERVER/MEDIATOR ROLE. HAS HELD THIS VIEW FOR SOME TIME BUT OVERRULED BY FONOFF AND MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WHICH TAKE VIEW THAT SWEDEN SHOULD NOT GET AHEAD OF UNSYG, AND THAT UNFICYP IS VALUABLE TRAINING TOOL FOR SWEDISH FORCES. SWEDISH UNFICYP CONTINGENT COMMANDER OPPOSES FURTHER

REDUCTION AS LEAVING HIM UNDEFENDED, BUT AMBASSADOR NOTES THAT EXPLICIT SHIFT TO OBSERVER/MEDIATOR FORCE WOULD OBVIATE THAT ARGUMENT.

8. FOR LONDON: FCO SOUTH EUROPE DIRECTOR GOODISON (ON VISIT HERE) SAYS BRITISH GOVT WILL NOT TAKE DECISION CONCERNING POSITION ON UNFICYP UNTIL BROADER BASES REVIEW COMPLETED. DATE UNSPECIFIED. PERSONALLY, HE IS ATTRACTED TO IDEA OF INTERMEDIATE STAGE INVOLVING SMALL RESERVE FORCE PLUS OBSERVER/MEDIATORS.

9. ABOVE FACTUAL INFO INTENDED FOR USE IN CASE OTHERS RAISE ARGUMENT. WE AGREE WITH DEPT (NICOSIA 890) THAT MAJOR DEMARCHE NOW WOULD BE UNPRODUCTIVE, THAT WE SHOULD BE AIMING TOWARD CONVERTING OTHERS DURING SUMMER AND AUTUMN.
GRANT

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